

16. The imaging process according to claim 9, wherein the process suppresses noise effects.

The amendments to the claims are shown in bracket-underline format on separate pages in Exhibit D, attached herewith.

REMARKS

Claims 9-16 are currently pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings as including reference numbers not mentioned in the description and as using one reference number to designate two different areas; objected to the abstract of the disclosure as improperly listing reference numbers; objected to the specification as having an improper format; objected to the title of the invention as not being descriptive; rejected claims 9-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete and indefinite; and rejected claims 9-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Libove et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,574,240).

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 9-16 to more properly recite the features of the present invention. Applicants have also submitted a substitute specification (including a marked-up copy of the original specification), a new Abstract of the Disclosure, a revised title, and proposed drawing amendments. Applicants believe that the amendments to the claims, specification, Abstract, title, and drawings render moot the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection to the claims, and the objections to the specification, Abstract, title, and drawings. Applicants respectfully traverse the prior art rejection of the claims, for the following reasons.

The present invention recited, for example, in claim 9, and claims 10-16 at least by virtue of dependence, comprises a combination of elements, including detecting a central area and first areas of the spatial frequency space, the first areas being a first distance from the central area; detecting the central area and second areas of the spatial frequency space, the second areas being a second distance from the central area; and detecting the central area and third areas of the spatial frequency space, the third areas being a third distance from the central area. By selectively detecting the high-frequency data (i.e., the first, second, and third areas of the spatial frequency space), the time advantage of a conventional keyhole method is essentially maintained using the imaging process of the present invention. However, noise effects are suppressed in the imaging process of the present invention. Furthermore, the imaging process of present invention occurs in the spatial frequency space (i.e., no pulse transmission occurs in the imaging process of the present invention).

In contrast, Libove et al. disclose a method for flow measurement using nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR). Excitation of nuclei is accomplished by irradiating the nuclei with carrier wave of a characteristic RF generated by a radio frequency signal generator. An irradiation by a carrier wave of a designated amplitude and duration is commonly termed a "pulse." (Col. 4, lines 41-54). Thus, Libove et al. fail to disclose or suggest the combination recited in claims 9-16. Rather, the reference is silent with regard to imaging in the spatial frequency space, as confirmed by the reference's use of pulse transmission.

In light of the above, Applicants submit that claims 9-16 are patentably distinguishable from Libove et al. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the Section 102(b) rejection of these claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

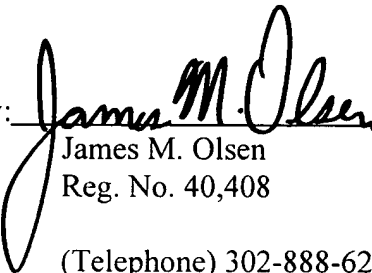
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-2775. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

Dated: April 4, 2002

By: _____



James M. Olsen
Reg. No. 40,408

(Telephone) 302-888-6256
(Facsimile) 302-255-4256